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each committee, and these should be printed in the *Proceedings*. The value of the *Proceedings* will be thus enhanced and a more general interest will be awakened among scientific men in the work of their Association.

To carry on the enlarged work of the Association, additional funds will have to be acquired. The plan adopted by the British Association, of making visitors and ladies accompanying members pay for the privileges of the meetings, seems to us in every way admirable. The income of the British Association in 1897 was £580 from annual assessments, but £2242 from non-members. Thus the non-scientific contributed to the support of science. Finally, to increase the membership of the Association, a systematic canvas should be made of the scientific societies of the country, to the ends that their quality may be determined; that we may accept, as it were, "on certificate" and without special election, any member of a suitable society; and that these societies may be led to coöperate with the national association in promoting the interests of science in the land.

Zoological Bibliography. — The second report of the committee of the Royal Society upon Zoological Bibliography and Publication has been issued. It contains the following suggestions:

(1) That each part of a serial publication should have the date of actual publication, as near as may be, printed on the wrapper, and, when possible, on the last sheet sent to press.

(2) That authors' separate copies should not be distributed privately, before the paper has been published in the regular manner.

(3) That authors' separate copies should be issued with the original pagination, and plate numbers clearly indicated on each page and plate, and with a reference to the original place of publication.

(4) That it is desirable to express the subject of one's paper in its title, while keeping the title as concise as possible.

(5) That new species should be properly diagnosed, and figured where possible.

(6) That new names should not be proposed in irrelevant footnotes or anonymous paragraphs.

(7) That references to previous publications should be made fully and correctly, if possible, in accordance with one of the recognized sets of rules for quotation, such as that recently adopted by the French Zoological Society.

With all of which the *American Naturalist* is in the closest sympathy. A few comments, however, may be of interest. The second of the

above rules meets with objection on the part of some, who claim that in the case of societies which publish irregularly and at long intervals, it seems wrong to withhold the extras until the whole volume is published. This frequently would result in a delay of months, or even of years. For instance, one volume of the *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences* has been kept incomplete for over a dozen years, awaiting the dilatoriness of an author who has failed to submit the manuscript of an article accepted for publication. All such difficulties, it seems to us, would be obviated by following the course adopted by several societies, among them the Boston Society of Natural History and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of issuing each paper separately as soon as it is ready.

In regard to Article 4, we wish that the committee could have gone farther, and have expressed its opinion of a tendency to split up what should form a single article into a number of articles, each with its own heading. We recall one extreme case of a single volume, in which an author had over a dozen articles upon the larval stages of as many different Lepidoptera, each with its own title, and each, by all rules of bibliography, entitled to rank as a separate article, while all might readily be embraced under a single heading. Similar cases abound in the literature of species describing; and their only excuse seems to be that the authors wished to have as many titles as possible to their credit (?) in the bibliographies.

The sixth suggestion is one that if followed will eventually bring to an end a host of trials and tribulations of the systematist. Such names are almost sure to be lost for years. For instance, the late Dr. Haldemann years ago described the crustacean genus *Abacura*. How many carcinologists know of the description? Then, what shall be done with isolated descriptions in school books? And what with suggestions like the following? In *Science*, Vol. viii, No. 201, p. 613, Dr. Dall, in a notice of Bitners's Lamellibranchs of the trias of St. Cassian, speaks of the preoccupied name *Arcoptera* and says, "We would suggest that the preoccupied name be replaced by *Bitternerella*." This occurs in an article which would be apt to be overlooked by the systematist; and again this able conchologist does not actually rename the genus but suggests that it be renamed, as if fully cognizant of the incongruity of time and place.

The Utilization of Desert Areas. — With the increase of our population the extent of our desert areas has constantly diminished through the use of crops adapted to the climate and by irrigation,